

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, MARCH 8, 1787.

To the PRINTERS of the MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THE disagreement between the two branches of our legislature, and the measures pursued in consequence of that disagreement, call for the serious attention of every citizen of the state. An appeal is made by the house of delegates on the subject of this difference. The question which gave rise to the appeal, though of considerable consequence, is far less important than the appeal itself. An emission of paper money to the amount, or indeed to more than the amount, required by the house of delegates, and upon terms the most favoured by the supporters of that measure, although it may be attended with pernicious effects, yet cannot, it is hoped, produce those lasting evils that must result from a measure which, should it succeed, and be formed into a practice, will give an effectual blow to the constitution itself.

Even the favourers of an emission feel some surprise at the conduct of the framers, and supporters of that scheme. Instead of a hasty appeal to the people, why did they not enter into a discussion of the subject with the senate upon the principles of the appeal, and in reply to their message? Merely to assert, as the appeal does, "that the message of the senate contained nothing in it, but what related to the depreciation of the paper, and that the senate had enumerated a great number of causes in support of their opinion, but that in the opinion of the appellants, this was a matter of judgment to be determined by the event," I say, merely to assert this, without inquiring into the causes, and stating to the people their reasons in opposition to them, does by no means establish the propriety of such a trial. Men of prudence regulate their conduct by probable events, supported by reason and experience. Hazardous experiments are ever rejected by the considerate and wise, in favour of remedies less doubtful in the event, although perhaps more silent, and slow in their operation.

But this might have been deemed unnecessary. For with respect to taxation, it is declared by the appeal to be a matter altogether immaterial, whether the bills of credit depreciate, or not. The words are these, "It is very clear to us, that if the money should depreciate, it cannot in any manner injure individuals; and we are not able to discover how the depreciation supposed (say five, ten, fifteen, or even twenty per cent. for argument sake) can injure our government." With respect to the former part of this position, a question is put a little lower down in the appeal, which intimates this circumstance to be a benefit, rather than an injury. Thus, "suppose a man owes two silver dollars for his tax, for which he must give three bushels of wheat, if no paper money, but if there is he can procure two paper dollars for two bushels of wheat; will he increase or diminish his property?" This question offers a flattering prospect. Let us look into it. The legislature, for instance, calls upon the people for taxes to support the government, and to discharge its debts. A tax of two silver dollars in the hundred, we will say, is necessary for these purposes, instead of receiving these into the treasury, the state will get but two thirds of the real sum called for, provided paper is paid. For considering both, in the expression of the appeal, as representatives of the property, the difference between them, according to the state of the question, is as two to three. Well. By a preceding paragraph a deficiency is admitted in the annual supplies, and it must be made up, says the appeal, by a further tax, that is in effect, I apprehend, the person, who paid two paper dollars for his last year's tax, must make it up to two silver dollars in the subsequent one. Thus a portion of the last year's burthen must be added to the weight of the present. Now let us repeat the question. "Will a person, thus circumstanced, increase or diminish his property?" If the deficiency is to be made up by an equal tax upon the whole, and some have paid in the full tax, really, in specie, and others, nominally, in paper, there may be some subsistence in the question. But, I trust, the general assembly can never have it in view to countenance such inequality. If not, the person, who is to make up his last year's tax, I am of opinion, will deem the increase rather ideal. Unless incurring a debt may be said to be increasing his property; which indeed may have some truth in it in this case, if we consider the fate of arrearages heretofore. In fact the sentiment appears pretty general, if we may judge from common practice. But when the affairs of those people, who adopt this mode of increase, come to be wound up by themselves, or others, the balance is too often found, to the sore regret of their creditors, to be on the other side of the account.

"Let it be admitted, says the appeal, that £.100,000 brought into the treasury by taxes, should purchase tobacco and flour only worth £.80,000 in gold and silver, this deficiency must be made up by a further tax, but the state will neither be richer nor poorer." In reply to this observation, I will ask the following question: Suppose the necessity of the state requires a supply of £.100,000; suppose to satisfy this requisition the treasurer receives only the sum of £.80,000; with respect to that year, is not the state unable, that is too poor, by £.20,000 to discharge necessary demands? But the deficiency is in the pockets of the people. Well, when a tax equal, we will say, to fifteen shillings specie is laid, and the people, by the application of paper money in the payment, discharge only a portion, say two thirds, of the real tax required, it will become necessary, even by the admission of the appeal, to make a further addition of one third, or five shillings specie, to the next year's requisition. If in the lowest state of the tax an arrearage happens, would it not be madness to expect, that when the tax is increased by former dues, that arrearages will not increase also? If so, when is each year's deficiency to be paid up? At what stage are arrearages to stop? If they are attendant on every new tax imposed, government, I trust, in the midst of imaginary riches, will find itself steeped in actual poverty.

"The state will neither be richer, nor poorer!" If there be an annual addition to the debts of the state, and to the interest on them, will not every increase of the same be a new incumbrance? Here let it be remembered, to prevent stale cavils, that by much the greatest part of the debts already incurred, and that will be incurred, must necessarily be external. I imagine our government can never have in view the event of a bankruptcy, to obtain a general clearance; if not, the more its debts are increased, the greater proportion of its property it will take to discharge them. And all, or the greatest part of this, must fall into the hands of strangers, and of course, be so much deducted from the general wealth of the state, and of its citizens. Arrearages of taxes carry no interest. Debts incurred in consequence of them receive a yearly addition from this circumstance. The means therefore relied on to discharge these debts, must fail in that respect, even supposing, and this can scarcely be supposed, that the whole of them will be fairly collected and lodged in the treasury. Now let me ask, with what propriety can it be said by the appeal, that those deficiencies will be made up by further taxes, and that the state will neither be richer nor poorer in consequence of this circumstance?

Notwithstanding the appeal holds out an idea, that the depreciation of the bills of credit is a thing immaterial in itself, as to taxation, yet we observe a desire to impress a belief, that they will not depreciate. For in the project for melting down the solid and real property of the citizens of this state, and circulating it in paper money, "the bills of credit, says the appeal, will be the substitute of such solid property, in the same manner as gold and silver is the representative of land and all other property, and these notes would possess all the qualities of a circulating medium of trade, as well as coin, and must have a real intrinsic worth, as long as the lands, on which they issue, retain their value."

There does not appear to me to be a necessary connexion between the "must have a real and intrinsic worth" and the security pledged for the redemption of these bills. The lands mortgaged may be sufficient for the redemption of twenty times the sum in circulation at the end of the term of emission, but whether at that period there will be gold and silver enough in the treasury, by virtue of the above security, for this purpose, and if so, whether this gold and silver will be applied to that use, or be diverted to some other purpose, are circumstances so uncertain, that the paper from a view to the security, instead of possessing a real intrinsic value, I fear much, will have but a faint representative one. The real and intrinsic value of a thing, in common language, is the established fixed value of a thing in itself. Gold and silver money, though the representatives of wealth, are said to have a real intrinsic value, that is, a value in themselves, independent of that circumstance; for not being confined to that use alone, they are equally, or nearly, as valuable for other purposes. Can this be said of paper money? Is there one valuable purpose in life to which it can be applied independent of its ideal use? Bank bills and bankers notes in England have, in effect, an intrinsic value, because you can, upon producing them, obtain what they represent; and it is owing

to this circumstance alone that they have. Will our bills of credit have this effect upon sight? It would be a glorious sight. We might then boast, without a fable, that the golden age had returned.

The appeal says, "suppose the depreciation at five, ten, or even twenty per cent for argument's sake." If by this is meant a sudden depreciation to any one fixed point, there to remain without alteration, there may be some reason in the position. But let common sense, let experience determine (and surely our experience will afford full information,) whether such a case is, in the most distant degree, probable. The depreciation must necessarily be by stages, every intermediate one of which, between the imposing, and the application of the tax, will proportionably lessen its value, and of course be injurious to the state, by rendering the annual supplies, inadequate to the purposes for which they are imposed, and thereby occasioning a rapid accumulation of debt.

The appeal does not undertake to estimate the quantity of specie in the state, but alleges, that there is not a sufficiency in circulation to answer the purposes of commerce alone, "because the chief produce of the country, tobacco and wheat, cannot command a reasonable price, because slaves, houses and negroes, will not sell for half their actual value, and because specie cannot be borrowed unless at an exorbitant premium, from twenty to thirty per cent."

As to the preceding part of the foregoing assertions, with respect to the price of wheat and tobacco, if they do not command a reasonable price at this time, I am apprehensive, another reason, and perhaps as good a one, may be assigned for that effect, as the one given in the appeal. That paper money was formerly as good as gold and silver, is undoubtedly true; but that it has not been the fate of bills of credit, for some years past, to enjoy that reputation, is equally true, and by consequence, the possession of them has not been held in so high estimation, as it formerly was, or as that of gold and silver. Those who were so provident, as to retain the latter in their hands, during the late continual fluctuation of the former, experienced the good effects of such conduct. On the contrary, those who pursued a different plan, severely felt, and sorely lamented, the part they had taken. This is still fresh in the memory of all of us. What then is the natural consequence? Why says a thrifty, considerate man, an emission of bills of credit is likely to take place, which will most probably experience the fate of former emissions. I have gold and silver in my chest. That I know cannot suffer by any change. Therefore I will bind, late find. This will be the reasoning both of those who are in, and of those, that are out of debt. The former will reflect, that perhaps he may find an easier way hereafter to discharge his public, and private dues, than by parting with his hard money for that purpose; at least he is willing to try it. The latter may be of opinion, that should he part with it, it may not be in his power to replace it, with what is of equal value. Thus each will contribute to lessen the circulation. This has actually been the effect of the expectation of an emission of bills of credit. During the circulation of the different species of paper, with which this, and the other states, were not long since overwhelmed, we know that scarcely a piece of gold, or silver coin was to be seen. Upon the decrease, and cessation of that currency, gold and silver began to find their way into the commercial, and other dealings of men. The farmer, the planter, and the miller, were all sensible of this. The articles they carried to market commanded a generous price, and that in cash. It is but very lately that this has ceased to be the case. In the place of cash credit is introduced. The merchant and trader, if possessed of specie, are desirous, like the rest of their neighbours, to keep it for a good market, or, if they part with it, to take advantage of the present scarcity. It is in vain to say that the paper will not be a tender, therefore cannot be injurious to any one. The necessities of men will oblige them to take it in most instances. Those who cultivate the earth, cannot keep its produce on hand. They must take what they can get, or suffer the fruits of their industry to perish in their possession. The actual circulation of paper for many years expelled gold and silver from all the transactions of men. The late, and present expectations of another, or other emissions, has had that operation in a great degree. And as long as this continues, or whenever the measure is carried into effect, the same consequence must accompany that situation, or result from this event.

That lands, negroes, and houses, will not sell for half their value, is rather owing to the imagina-

ry worth we affix to these articles, than to their real value, estimated according to their produce. But satisfactory reasons, of a different kind from that in the appeal, may be assigned for a decrease of value in these articles, supposing it to be the case. Upon the breaking up of the war, vast prospects of profit were opened to adventurers in the mercantile line, which, though they have proved declusive, drew all the cash into that channel, that could be procured. The great advantages that were offered in the purchase of public securities, employed all the specie, that could by any means be scraped together by those who engaged in this adventure. The slow and moderate profits arising from lands, negroes, and houses, had nothing alluring, whilst such objects as these were in view, therefore they attracted but little of the cash in circulation. But this situation was extraordinary. Those scenes were already closed, or closing fast. Our affairs were returning into the old channel. Gold and silver began to have a general circulation in the country as well as in towns. The farmer and the planter began to feel the change; and I am sorry to say, only began; for the wisdom of our present politicians is now exerted, and has been for some time, to deprive them of that sensation as speedily, and effectually, as they can accomplish it, and they may boast of having succeeded already, at least in part. The high premiums, that have been given for specie, may be accounted for by the same reasons, with this additional one, the uncertainty creditors are under of receiving the full amount of their loans. This I hope, will prove an idle fear; but surely there are grounds for it. He who has smarted under the lash, will use every means in his power to withdraw himself from the full effect of the blow.

Considerable arrears of taxes have been urged as a proof of the scarcity of a circulating medium, but other and more obvious reasons may be adduced to account for this effect, viz. the remissness of the collectors in the performance of their duties; frauds committed by them with respect to monies received; money collected and appropriated to their own use, never accounted for, and that probably never will be accounted for; repeated laws and resolutions passed in favour of these defaulters. When such causes as these exist, why need we go in search of others to account for an empty treasury, and heavy arrears? It is generally said, and I believe the fact to be so, that there is no inconsiderable number of the citizens of this state, who have not paid a single tax since the commencement of the war. Some are deficient one, some two, and some a greater number of years. And the most of these are not of the lower class of people, but such whose circumstances would well enable them to pay, but who preferred the indulgence to the receipt of the collector, which he has been willing to grant in return for former favours, or in expectation of future services. The poor and industrious class of people have in general paid up their taxes. An emission, in this instance, is not therefore calculated for their benefit, but will rather have a contrary tendency, as they have already discharged their public dues to the full and real amount of the taxes that have been called for by government; nevertheless one of the pretences for an emission of bills of credit is, the relief of the poor in this particular. This pretence is popular, and may appear specious, but has nothing in it solid or substantial.

The bill provided, says the appeal, "that no more than £.200,000 should be in circulation at the same time, unless the governor and council should be fully satisfied that the loaning a further sum would not in any manner affect the value of the sum in circulation." Suppose the governor and council were of opinion that a further loan would affect the value of the bills of credit then in circulation, and of consequence determined that no more should be issued on loan. This might delay an increase of the circulating sum until the next session of assembly; but can we believe that it would not then be done, when the appeal declares it to be immaterial as to the government, whether the bills of credit depreciate or not, and plainly intimates it to be beneficial to the individual if they should? The opinion of the senate might in this case too differ from that of the house of delegates. But the opinion of the senate will be of little avail, should the mode now adopted by the latter to carry their measures meet with success.

However plausible the scheme for reducing the paper in circulation annually, by sinking one half of the interest, and one twentieth of the principal of loans, may appear, there is one circumstance, mentioned in the appeal, which I apprehend will defeat the happy effects that are expected to flow from that project. I mean the annual deficiency of supplies, or in other words, the poverty of the treasury. Let us imagine a case, which is by no means improbable, that money is wanted for some of the purposes of government, viz for the purchase of produce to raise specie for congress, and that there is not a sufficiency in the treasury for this use, without applying the aforesaid interest and twentieths, perhaps not enough even with this addition. This, I say, is not an improbable case. Should it happen, what will become of the sinking fund? I don't imagine there is much difficulty in answering this question. Present necessities must be satisfied, if possible, and the plan of raising paper money to purchase articles to be refold for specie, with the train of losses and expences attending its operation,

will alone create a necessity sufficient to absorb all the paper that it will be in the power of the legislature to levy upon the people; at best it will leave but a very scanty portion for the other purposes of government. Adieu! then to the sinking funds.

I have said, that the question, which gave rise to the appeal of the house of delegates, though of considerable consequence, is far less important than the appeal itself. I mean not to enter into a discussion of the question respecting the right that either branch of the legislature may have to appeal to the people for instructions on subjects, whereon the two branches cannot agree, nor respecting the right the people may possess of instructing either part, or the whole of the legislature, in all cases where they may deem their instructions necessary. It will be sufficient to shew, that the practice of appeal by either branch will be productive of considerable mischief, and will in the end destroy the constitution itself. I have made use of the term, practice, because where that mode is adopted I see nothing to limit its application, nor can it be discovered to what objects it will be confined. We may therefore conclude, that appeals will be made in all cases of difference between the two branches of the legislature, at least in all those cases that may be deemed important by one of them.

This custom, we observe, has originated with the house of delegates, and it is easy to foresee that it will remain with that body. The members of that house are considered as the more immediate representatives of the people, and it is considered that they know their interest better, and have it more at heart than the members of the other branch. The senate is viewed as an aristocratic body, as composed of rich men, and therefore are supposed to have a distinct interest from the main body of the people. In all differences between the house of delegates and the senate, these ideas being constantly inculcated, it will require no great degree of the spirit of divination to foretell which will, at least, generally prevail.

The constitution says, that the legislature shall consist of two distinct branches. Nay, it seems so desirous of preserving this distinction, that from a consciousness that a privilege confined to the house of delegates, viz. "of originating money bills," might be made use of to destroy the independency of the senate, it declares in strong and expressive terms in the eleventh section, "that the senate may be at full and perfect liberty to exercise their judgment in passing laws, and that they may not be compelled by the house of delegates either to reject a money bill, which the emergency of affairs may require, or to assent to some other act of legislation, in their conscience and judgment injurious to the public welfare, the house of delegates shall not on any occasion, or under any pretence, annex to, or blend with, a money bill, any matter, clause, &c. &c. &c." This section shews the desire, the anxiety, I may say, of the constitution to preserve the independency of that branch of the legislature to which it relates, and which might have suffered by the abuse of a privilege that was confined to the house of delegates alone.

A full and perfect liberty to exercise their judgment in passing laws, is by the constitution deemed a matter so essential, and of such magnitude, that no pretence, no occasion whatever is admitted as a plea with the other branch sufficient to deprive them of the exercise of that right. What is the object of the appeal of the house of delegates? Is it not, in fact, to control the senate in the full exercise of their judgment; I address myself to men of plain understandings. A quibble may impose upon the ignorant, or satisfy the casuist. But men of a different complexion, whatever professions may be used, are not to be convinced by bare assertions, or by flimsy arguments.

Should this mode prevail. Should the full and perfect liberty to exercise their judgment (I repeat the words of the constitution, for there cannot be stronger) be taken from the senate, what will be the consequence? Men of independent spirit will never accept of or retain a seat in a body where they cannot exercise their understandings, or declare their opinions with freedom. Of such men alone will the senate be composed, who will submit to any compliances, and who can adapt their opinions to any occasions. The distinction required by the constitution will be at an end. There will, in fact, be only one branch in our legislature. We have often seen and felt the benefit of two.

Were it however to happen, that the senate, notwithstanding this practice, and being constantly over-ruled in their opinions, did still retain a spirit of freedom in their debates and determinations, this, instead of producing any good effect, would probably be attended with the greatest evils. The state will be kept in continual agitation by the differences of the two branches of the legislature; personal animosities; quarrels amongst neighbours; divisions in families; and often bloodshed, would be the consequence. Government, which is instituted to preserve union and tranquillity amongst men, will become the source of division and disorder. Every new appeal will be the parent of new disturbances, which will be the worse, as the minds of men had been fretted by former opposition.

These are evils, and evils likely to result from that situation of affairs. But what is said on the other side? Shall the senate be a body independent of the people? Shall they know no restrictions but what their own wills impose? Shall they have it in

their power to ruin the state, and shall the people be without relief or remedy? Such questions often terrify, and generally impose upon weak minds. The alarm conveyed by them looks like danger, but it is only the danger of sound.

Should the ends of government be perverted by either, or both branches of the legislature. Should they or either of them become (I mean the real, not the imaginary) oppressors, instead of protectors of the people, I trust there is that sense and spirit in the citizens of this state, that will enable them to discover and urge them to resent every attempt to injure or oppress them, and to provide against future dangers and abuses.

When the people of this state delegate a power to particular men to make laws for their government, which persons by our constitution are to be the most wise, sensible and discreet men in the society, it may reasonably be supposed, that by that constitution it was intended the people at large should not interfere with the body thus appointed, at least in the ordinary course of legislation. The bill of rights has reserved a right to the people in extraordinary emergencies to resist oppression, which undoubtedly they would be entitled to do, even without any particular reservation in the constitution for that purpose. From the complexion of the whole clause in which this reservation is made, I think it appears, that the framers of the constitution esteemed the interference of the people in legislative and executive matters, at least improper and unnecessary, but in cases mentioned in the clause, viz. when the ends of government are perverted, and liberty manifestly endangered. The distinction is founded in wisdom. In matters of opinion, upon which the ordinary business of legislation must turn, the people at large cannot be supposed to be competent judges. In those cases that forcibly strike the senses, and operate upon the feelings, all men are equally qualified to decide.

Let us suppose that the practice of appeals should take place. Can we imagine it will be confined to those cases alone, wherein the ends of government are perverted, or liberty manifestly endangered? Those who have been present at the transaction of public business in either branch of the legislature must have observed, that although the intention of the members may be always directed to the public good, yet their tempers are not always free from passion, or their minds from prejudice. A bill for an emission of paper money, and the other bill mentioned in the appeal may, upon a candid and dispassionate inquiry, be deemed such acts as do not affect the ends of government, or endanger liberty. Yet we find the people are addressed on those subjects. Any other bills may go through the same process that those have done, and thus the people may be called from their ordinary occupations to give directions to those, who they themselves have declared to be the most wise, sensible and discreet amongst them, on subjects that they have never considered, or had an opportunity of considering.

In a legislature like ours, framed entirely of the representatives of the people, undistinguished by titles, interest, or rank, from their constituents, and regularly returning, at fixed periods, into the common mass of citizens, governed by the same laws, and enjoying the same privileges, one would imagine, that there cannot arise an occasion, which can render them opposed to the interest, and inimical to the welfare of their country. In legislatures composed partly of the representatives of the people, and partly of those, who, in their legislative capacity, are independent of them, there may at times be occasion for the interposition of the people. For there being two, or as in the British constitution, three distinct branches, and only one of them taken from the common body, and depending on them for their existence, the others forming bodies, not only independent on the people in this respect, but distinguished, and separated from the rest of the society by prerogatives, titles, honours, and considerable privileges; in such governments, I say, there may often be occasion for the intervention of the people, to watch over their own representatives, and to guard them against any undue authority, or influence in the other branches, which might prove prejudicial to their general interest, and dangerous to liberty. But in our constitution, there is no such body. Arguments therefore drawn from a practice in governments like these, are totally inapplicable to us. Authors are quoted on this occasion. But they are quoted with the same taste, and propriety, as such arguments are advanced.

I am sensible, that to question even the propriety of the interference of the people in any case, be it what it may, in matters of legislation will be deemed an attempt on liberty. All the topics used in the most desperate and dangerous cases, will be urged in opposition to such a sentiment. Revolutions of government in favour of, or against liberty, will contribute to furnish means for the purpose of opposing a doctrine so pernicious. But, in the midst of this clamour, let it not be forgotten by the citizens of this state, who now live under a free government, and who are desirous of preserving the constitution, as it now is, that they cannot more effectually reduce this to the situation of the world of governments, than by throwing such a weight into either branch of our legislature, as will overbalance, or counterbalance such conduct in one, as will destroy the effect and independency of the other.

A CONSTITUENT.

V E N I C E, November 4.

THE advices received from our fleet mention, that from the 28th of September to the 26th of October, they have bombarded Suez without intermission, inasmuch that the place is almost destroyed and abandoned by the greatest part of its inhabitants. We are in daily expectation of receiving the particulars of that business.

L O N D O N, December 15.

At the late assizes in the county of Norfolk, a man was tried on a charge of bigamy. Two wives had already proved their titles to his person, when a third stood up for the same purpose, and a fourth appeared in readiness. "Why you fellow," exclaimed the judge, "at this rate where did you intend to stop?" "To stop, my lord," replies the other, "I was only going on till I could find a good one!"

Jan. 4. A letter from Naples, dated December 1, says, "The 13th of last month a terrible battle was fought near the island of Corfica, between a Maltese frigate, commanded by a noble knight of Malta, and an Algerine cruiser of equal force; the engagement began at ten o'clock in the morning, and continued without intermission till two in the afternoon, during which time they were along side each other frequently, fighting yard-arm and yard-arm with the most determined resolution. The Algerine made several attempts to board sword in hand, but were vigorously repulsed every time with great slaughter. The Maltese, who are sworn enemies to the infidels, shewed astonishing bravery throughout the whole action, and fought like to many heroes, determined never to strike, but at last unfortunately their ship took fire, and in a short time blew up, and all on board perished except one man, who was taken up the next day upon a piece of the mast, by a small bark, and brought in here a miserable spectacle. By the man's account, it is generally believed what remained of the pirate must have sunk soon after, as their vessel was entirely dismantled, and in a very shattered condition a considerable time before the frigate blew up. He further says, the Maltese had not above 40 left alive when the took fire, out of the whole complement, and that the captain and first lieutenant were killed in the beginning of the action."

By letters lately received from a principal merchant, residing at Algiers, we learn, that the Algerine vessel, which was suffered to be destroyed by the Portuguese, at the bank of Gibraltar, was not the property of the dey, but of the merchants, who have estimated their loss at a thousand pounds a gun, and insisted upon being paid thirty thousand pounds. General Elliott first sent 16,000 hard dollars, and afterwards offered to add 10,000 more, which being but a quarter part of the claim, the dey insists upon the deficiency being made up.

We further learn, that the dey is the more displeased, from a consideration of the important services which his subjects rendered the garrison during the late siege, in supplying it with necessaries, &c. The merchants interested in the Mediterranean trade are under very serious apprehensions from the capricious disposition of the dey, that, unless this affair is speedily settled, his cruisers will be let loose upon their fish ships, &c. now in that quarter of the world.

B O S T O N, February 7.

Extra of a letter from an officer in the State's army, dated Hadley, February 2d, 1787, to a gentleman in this town.

"HONOURED SIR,

"The feeling humane mind must have many melancholy reflections at beholding the situation of these counties, which is truly deplorable. Father against son—brother against brother—friend against friend—embruing their hands in each others blood.—The whole country is in arms, and there appears a cessation of all business, except what belongs to war. There is scarce an hour, but petitions and applications, from towns, are presented to the general, praying that reconciliation may take place without bloodshed; and 'tis really affecting to hear the prayers of the inhabitants, that he would interpose to stop all further proceedings in arms. General Lincoln conducts like a man of humanity, and still retains his dignity as a good officer and commander."

Extra of a letter from a gentleman in the State's army, to another in this town, dated Worthington, February 10, 1787.

"I may now congratulate you on the final success of government in subduing the rebellion in Hampshire and Berkshire. The last party, under Wiley, has dispersed. Wiley and the leaders are fled into Vermont, and detachments from this army are taking up such characters as have been conspicuous in the insurrection. A handsome expedition was formed to take Wiley; but he saved himself by an early and precipitate flight.

"Pittsfield, February 12, 1787.

"The insurgents in this county are more obstinate, more stout-hearted, men of more property, and consideration than I have yet seen—Captain Hubbard was taken at the head of his men at Lee, and if his repeated orders to fire had been obeyed, there would have been a smart skirmish. He is a man of good estate."

On Thursday evening his excellency the governor received a letter from the honourable general Lincoln, dated the 13th instant. He was then with

his troops at Pittsfield, in the county of Berkshire. His excellency has also received a letter dated the 12th from general Shepard, who with a detachment of the army, by another route, was then marching into the same county. Several of the rebels, and some suspected of being their abettors, have been apprehended. The most noted are John Wheeler, late one of Shay's aids, and Matthew Clark, said to have been busy in organizing the rebel militia. It is also said that Dr. Whiting, a judge of the court of common pleas for Berkshire, has been taken into custody.

A person who came to town yesterday from Vermont informs, that Shays, with a number of other rebel officers, left Guildford in this state, on Friday last week, on their way to Berkshire, in this commonwealth.

W O R C E S T E R, January 31.

About 3 o'clock in the afternoon of Saturday, after general Lincoln had refreshed his men for a few hours, he sent a party across the river to West-Springfield, to reconnoitre Mr. Day; but Day with his whole body of men, immediately fled, excepting about 40, that the general's party found in barns, &c. Day left behind him his baggage and provision sleighs, four in number; the party having pursued Day a few miles, returned to Springfield, where their prisoners, it is said, being desirous of taking the oath of allegiance, were afterwards liberated. Day reached Northampton that night, as it is said, with only 300 men, and afterwards joined Shays, at Amherst. General Lincoln is said to have marched his army on Sunday, in two divisions, one division towards Northampton, the other towards Amherst; and we since learn, that the main body of his army is now at Amherst, but about 8 miles from Shays. We hear that on Monday, a committee called mediators, from several towns, waited on general Lincoln at Amherst,—he received them very politely; particulars on this subject we have not learned. A report prevails, that a guard of Shays fired on a party of his own men, as they were retreating from Ludlow, supposing them to belong to general Lincoln, and killed an adjutant and one or two more.

P H I L A D E L P H I A, February 21.

The report in our paper of Wednesday last, relative to the people of Kentucky having captured a small Spanish vessel on the Ohio, probably took its rise from the following circumstances, which we are assured may be credited, viz. That some time ago, two boats belonging to some of the inhabitants on the banks of the Ohio, went down the Mississippi, and were seized as soon as they reached the jurisdiction claimed by the Spaniards—and that some short time afterwards, in order to retaliate, general Clarke seized on two Spanish boats, which came up to Fort St. Vincent's, within the jurisdiction of the United States, for the purposes of trade. It is said they had furs and cash on board to the amount of near 20,000 dollars.

We are informed that general Clarke has sent a person to Congress to advise that honourable body thereof, and to solicit permission to raise a regiment of men for the defence of Fort St. Vincent. The particulars of these transactions, will in a few days probably transpire through the regular channel of information and authenticity.

B A L T I M O R E, February 27.

His Excellency the Governor of the commonwealth of Massachusetts-Bay, hath, by proclamation, dated the 9th instant, offered rewards, to be paid out of the public treasury, to whoever shall apprehend, secure and render to justice, Daniel Shays Luke Day, Adam Wheeler, and Eli Parsons, who, it appears, have been the principals in, and abettors and supporters of, an unnatural, unprovoked, and wicked rebellion against the dignity, authority, and government of the commonwealth aforesaid.

A N N A P O L I S, March 8.

To the P U B L I C.

I THINK it only necessary to add, to what has been already laid upon the subject of the exchange of certificates between the late intendand and myself, that the cash price of provision certificates was asserted by me, from instances of sales, and offers to sell, at the prices I mentioned, by holders of them, who were acquainted with their value, and well knew they were discountable in taxes; indeed I never knew one offered for sale but what had the auditor's endorsement for what the certificate was granted; they were frequently offered to me at the price I have mentioned, and I declined buying them, and if I had supposed £. 95 specie for £. 100 certificates, was the selling cash value, or that the certificates could have been turned into cash so advantageously, I certainly should not have parted with any of those I got in exchange, at the rate I did.

It is not known to me what was received for the certificates, by those who had them from me, or how they disposed of them; but it appears to me, that an instance of a high price being obtained, perhaps accidental, or under particular circumstances, is no proof of the common selling value of this article, or that every one who possessed it could obtain the same high price.—Whether the circumstance of provision, or other certificates, being discountable in taxes, will give them a selling value nearly equal to specie, is a question which experience alone can determine; and I believe it will be found, that al-

though to a man who owes taxes, the certificate payable in taxes are as good as specie for this purpose, yet they will not sell in cash for near the fair value pressed in the certificates.

J. H. STONE.

Annapolis, March 3, 1787.

The continuation of Mr. Jenifer's publication is necessarily postponed, but will be inserted in our next. Advertisements omitted will be inserted next week.

Charles county, February 1, 1787.

On Monday the 9th day of April next, if fair, if not the next fair day, will be offered for sale, at the subscriber's dwelling house, near Newport, SEVERAL valuable country born negroes, consisting of men, boys, women and children. Twelve months credit will be given to the purchasers, if required, on giving bond on interest with approved security.

WILLIAM D. BRISCOE.

Just Published, and to be SOLD, at the Printing-Office, Annapolis, and at the Post-Office, Baltimore; Price 7/6,

THE
L A W S
Of November Session, 1786.

THE
COLUMBIAN MAGAZINE,
For September, October, November, December, and January, Price 1/10 each, to be SOLD at the Printing-Office, where SUBSCRIPTIONS, at 20/ a Year, are taken in.

TO BE RENTED,

THE STORE-HOUSE, now in the Occupation of Messieurs Charles and William Steuart. Inquire of the Printers.

Annapolis, March 6, 1787.

THE subscriber begs leave to inform the public in general, and his friends and customers in particular, that he has provided himself with a large assortment of best upper and sole leather, and continues to carry on as formerly the shoe-making business in all its branches, at his shop, in Cornhill-street, near the Dock, where he has for sale leather of all sorts, and has had lately arrived from Philadelphia, a quantity of Burlington pork of the best quality, which he will sell either by the barrel or smaller quantity; also a quantity of all sorts of flour and best English cheese; he likewise retails tea, coffee, sugars, soap, candles, and all sorts of grocery wares, and has for sale a parcel of the best lemons, with a large quantity of salted fish, and a few cases of excellent gun, all which he will sell on the most reasonable terms, for ready cash only.—He acknowledges with gratitude the favours he has formerly received from his steady friends and constant customers, and hopes, by his future conduct, to merit a continuance of the same, and is their Very humble servant,
JOHN WELSH.

March 1, 1787.

ALL persons indebted to the estate of Mr. Benjamin Brookes, late of Prince-George's county, deceased, are requested to settle the same, and those who have claims against the said estate are desired to make them known to

SARAH BROOKES, executrix.

TAKEN up a-drift, a large CANOE, dimensions as follows, twenty-three feet long, two and an half feet wide, twenty inches wide in the bottom, has six timbers on one side, and seven on the other, she is painted red. The owner, proving property and paying charges, may have her again by applying to
JAMES BARECKSON, living on Kent-Island.

THERE is at the plantation of Joseph Selby, on the Head of South river, in Anne-Arundel county, taken up as a stray, a black MARE, about thirteen hands and an half high, has no perceivable brand, paces, trots and gallops, hanging mane and switch tail, appears to be about eight or nine years old, and with foal. The owner may have her again on proving property and paying charges.

October 12, 1786.

Wanted immediately,
As an overseer,

A MAN that is well acquainted with the management of a number of negroes, and understands farming; none need apply that cannot be well recommended; with or without a family will be immaterial; good encouragement will be given to a man that understands his business. Inquire of the Printers.

Annapolis, July 21, 1786.

Lands for Sale.

THE subscriber has for sale all that tract of land called Beall's Plantation and Snowden's Reputation, containing about 700 acres, situated on the head of South river, about three miles from navigable water, and contiguous to the estate of Mr. Richard Hopkins, of Gerard.

This is a most eligible situation, being twelve about miles from the city of Annapolis, twenty-eight from Baltimore town, twenty-four from George-town, and seven from the inspection houses of Indian Landing and Queen-Anne, is well adapted for corn, wheat, and particularly tobacco, also well timbered and watered, a very good mill stream runs through it; there is some meadow ground, and much more may be made.

The improvements upon it are, a good dwelling house with three large rooms on each floor, kitchen, quarter, cornhouse, stables, tobacco house, a very fine apple orchard together with a number of other valuable fruit trees.

Mr. Richard Hopkins will show the premises above mentioned; further particulars may be had of the printers, of Messieurs William Patterson and brothers, Baltimore, or of

JOHN WADDINGTON, in Philadelphia.

N. B. If a purchaser don't offer soon for the above plantation it will be rented. Mr. Waddington will be at Mr. Mann's tavern the middle of March, and will treat for it.

A LIST of LETTERS remaining in the Post-Office, Annapolis, which, if not taken up before the fifth day of April next, will be sent to the General Post-Office as dead letters.

GEORGE ASQUITH, St. Mary's county. Edward Burges, Annapolis; Mary Bishop, Calvert county; John Barnes, Port-Fobacco; Thomas Bowie, Dorset county.

Samuel Chale (2), Jeremiah T. Chafe, John Joseph Combes, Mary Coffy, Hugh Champlin, Thomas Chapman, Annapolis; Thomas Crackles, Port-Fobacco; William Cooke, Prince George's county; Patrick Carberry, Clement's Bay; Noble Crawford, Dauphin county, N. America.

Mr. Davidson, William Dancer, Hugh Donnelly, Annapolis; Impey Dawson, and Co. Talbot county; Philip Darnall, Fielder Dorsett, Patuxent.

John Gibson, John Galloway, Annapolis; Samuel Galloway (2), Tulip Hill.

Daniel Henry, Annapolis; John Hyndman, Pig-Point; Messieurs Herriot, Somerset county; Philip Hodgkin, Nottingham; Edward Hall, Queen-Anne's county; Thomas Harwood 3d, (3), Lower Marlborough.

John J. Jacobs, Annapolis; Rinaldo Johnson, Prince George's county.

James Kennedy, Talbot county.

Henry Lowes, Somerset; Samuel Lane, Pig-Point; Hardage Lane, Patowmack.

Anne Muir, Cambridge; William Mann, Pig-Point; Messieurs M'Bryde and Roxburgh, Somerset county.

Lawrence O'Neale, Edward Osmond, Annapolis.

Richard Potts, William Pinkney, Gatham Pattan, Annapolis.

John Rogers, Nathaniel Richardson, Annapolis.

Thomas Stone, Annapolis; Henry Speke, Charles county; major Snowen, Prince-George's county; Hugh Sherwood, Oxford; Susannah Somerville, Joseph Sim, Patuxent; Thomas and K. G. Smith, Francis Skrivan, Chester-town.

William Tite, Annapolis; John Thomas, Maryland; John Turner, South Milford, America.

Dr. Williamson, Annapolis; John Weems, Calvert county.

3X F. GREEN, D. P. M.

FIVE POUNDS REWARD.



RAN away, in the latter end of September last, from the subscriber, living in Fairfax county, Virginia, DICK, a very lusty mulatto fellow, about twenty five years of age, has bushy hair or wool, which he generally combs back, large features and eyes, a grim down look, and frowns when spoken to, is a subtle artful fellow, and well acquainted both in Virginia and Maryland, having been formerly a waiting-man; he is fond of dress, and took with him a variety of cloaths; he will change his name and pass for a free man, and may have a forged pass; he will make for the east on shore or Pennsylvania, or he will attempt to get on board some vessel, probably a bay craft, as he worked on board one by the name of Thomas Webster in his last runaway trip, when he commonly wore a short canvas shirt over his other cloaths. The above reward will be paid for delivering him to the subscriber, or for securing him in any gaol, and giving notice so that his master gets him again, if brought home all reasonable charges paid.

GEORGE MASON, jun.

N. B. All captains or skippers of vessels, and others, are hereby forewarned, at their peril, from taking him board or employing him.

January 10, 1787.

WE, the subscribers, justices of Charles county, not being at court when Mr. Hanlon, Mr. Dent, Mr. Samuel Hanlon, and Mr. Richard Barnes, signed an advertisement for the prels, declaring in what manner they thought the business of the court ought to be carried on for the future, do certify, that we shall readily concur in adopting the method therein proposed, and request the printers to give this a place in the Maryland Gazette.

J. PARNHAM,
BENNETT DYSN,
GEORGE LEE

2

Anne-Arundel county, January 26, 1787.

To be SOLD, by the subscriber, at his dwelling house, on Saturday the 17th of March next, SUNDRY valuable negroes and stock, amount the stock is a very fine breeding mare, now with foal by Sweeper, and two colts got by high bred horses out of the above mare. The terms will be made known on the day of sale, by

HENRY MAY.

Harford county, state of Maryland, February 10, 1787.

To be SOLD.

TWO blooded stallions, the property of the late Mr. John Patterson, viz. the noted horse RO-CHESTER, who, for activity, elegance, and pedigree, is exceeded by none on this continent; his performance on the turf is so well known to most of the sportsmen of this state, as to render recapitulation needless. ROMULUS, an elegant full blooded horse, (except a small mixture of the hunter) full sixteen and an half hands high, eight years old this spring, was esteemed a good runner until he met with a small lameness in training, which he has now got over; the above horses will be sold on a credit, the purchaser giving bond and approved security, if not sold by the twentieth of March next, they will be farmed for the season. There is likewise for sale at the same place a handsome mare, three quarters blood, very gay, and a good hack, with an elegant filly, rising two years old, got by Rochester, equal in figure and size to any thing in the state. Any person inclining to purchase or to farm either of the above stud horses, will meet with a good bargain by applying to the subscriber, living four miles on the road from Bush town to Havre-de Grace. All persons indebted to the estate of the above John Patterson, deceased, are requested to make payment, and those who have any claims against the estate are desired to bring them in, that they may be adjusted and paid by

4 GEORGE PAITER ON, administrator.

FOUR DOLLARS REWARD.

Lyon's Creek, Calvert county, January 25, 1787.



RAN away from the subscriber, on the 23d instant, a negro man named JACOB, 30 years of age, a short thick fellow, 5 feet 3 or 4 inches high, has a flat nose, and thick lips, he is tolerable handy with an ax, and been much accustomed of going by water, and very well acquainted in the harbours of Chesapeake bay; had on when he went away, an old cotton waistcoat and breeches; I think he has other cloaths with him, but cannot describe them, therefore he may probably change his name; I expect he may endeavour to get employ on board some vessel to Baltimore town, as he is well acquainted in that town. Whoever takes up and secures the said fellow, so that his master may get him again, shall receive if above 10 miles fifteen shillings, if out of the county three dollars, if out of the state the above reward including what the law allows, paid by

3X WILLIAM JOHNSON.

FIVE POUNDS REWARD.



RAN away from the subscriber, living near Queen-Anne, in Anne-Arundel county, on the 20th of January, 1787, a negro fellow named POMPEY, 5 feet 9 or 10 inches high, about 24 years of age, remarkably black, has very white teeth and eyes, a down sulky look when spoke to or examined; had on and took with him sundry wearing apparel, viz. a negro cotton jacket and breeches dyed yellow, a pair of old corded ditto, and an old blue silk coat, and a pair of black latten breeches, two old sing shirts half worn; he went off in company with an Irishman by the name of STEPHEN HAMILTON POKE, who it is probable will offer the said negro for sale. Whoever will secure either the said POKE or the said negro in gaol, or otherwise, so that his said master may get him again, shall receive the above reward, and reasonable charges paid, by me

ROBERT SANDERS.

N. B. All masters of vessels are forewarned carrying him off at their peril.

3X

Annapolis, January 6, 1787.

THIS is to inform my good customers and the public in general, that I have opened a private house on the most reasonable terms; the subscriber will be obliged to all those who will favour him with their company.

JOSEPH BREWER.

N. B. The subscriber is determined to settle his books; suits will be commenced against March court for the same.

3X

J. B.

CAME to the subscriber's, when living near Port-Fobacco, in Charles county, a red SPEER, he has been broke to the yoke, his mark is both ears cropped, and an under bit out of the left. The owner may have him again by applying at Mr. William Leigh's, proving property and paying charges.

ROBERT BRENT, jun.

3X

Head of Severn, February 20, 1787.

THIS is to give notice to all persons who have any demands against the estate of Mr. Thomas Wright, deceased, of Anne-Arundel county, to bring in their accounts legally proved that they may be discharged; the subscriber also requests all persons indebted to the estate either by bond, note, or book account, to come and settle their respective balances with

PHILIP HAMMOND, administrator.

2

To be SOLD, on Thursday the 29th of March, at the dwelling of the late Samuel Brogden, if fair, if not the next fair day, on credit with approved security, (the terms of credit to be made known on the day)

SEVERAL very valuable negroes, men, women and children, small girls and boys; some house-hold and kitchen furniture, plantation utensils, an half blooded mare by Chatham, and a horse cart. The creditors are requested to attend the sale, and to make their claims known on or before the day.

2 WILLIAM BROGDEN, administrator.

Annapolis, Maryland, February 16, 1787.

JOHN ANSTREY, Esq; of the kingdom of Great-Britain, having been specially authorised and appointed, pursuant to the directions of an act of the British parliament, to repair to the United States of America, for the purpose of inquiring and examining into such facts and circumstances, as may be material for the better ascertaining the several claims which have been presented under the authority of the act now in force, or any former act, for losses sustained during the late war in America, in consequence of attachment to the British government; and the same having been duly notified in letters from his excellency John Adams, Esq; minister plenipotentiary resident at the court of London, to the honourable the minister for foreign affairs, as also to his excellency the governor of this state.

THEREFORE such inquiry and examination generally, and indifferently, in all cases, for the purpose above mentioned, is at this time instituted in the state of Maryland; and of this, all persons any way concerned on behalf of themselves, or their friends, to manifest and make evident the real bona fide amount in value of the actual losses sustained in this state, are hereby particularly desired to take notice.

WHEREAS Thomas Nichols, late of this county, deceased, was appointed inspector of Choptico war house, in the year 1783; and whereas there still remains in the said warehouse, a few hogheads of tobacco of his, the said Nichols, inspection, which lies in a very ruinous situation; and whereas the subscriber, as administratrix of the said Thomas Nichols, hath paid several hogheads of tobacco that could not be found in the said warehouse, whereby the conceives what remains is her property; these are to notify to the public, that I shall to apply to the next general assembly of Maryland, to pass a law to enable me to dispose of the tobacco now remaining in said warehouse at public vendue, and oblige the holders of the notes (if any) to receive what the same may sell for.

3

JEAN NICHOLS, administratrix of THOMAS NICHOLS.

February 6, 1787.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the subscribers, heretofore vestrymen of St. Paul's parish, lying partly in Queen-Anne's and partly in Talbot counties, intend to petition the general assembly at their next session, on behalf of themselves and the representatives of the late Mr. Thomas Wright and Mr. Jacob Seth, to be reimbursed the monies which the subscribers, and the above deceased gentlemen, took up on their own credit, and expended on the new church in the said parish, generally called Chelter Church; and also to be enabled to discharge any reasonable and just claim against them on account of the said building which may still remain unsatisfied.

N. B. The accounts of particulars, shewing the applications of the tobaccoes levied and monies taken up, are with Mr. Richard Tilghman Earle, and may be inspected by any person who desires.

RICHARD T. FARLE,
CHARLES PRICE,
WILLIAM HOPPER,
RICHARD TILGHMAN.

3

January 15, 1787.

THE subscriber having leased the plantation of the late William Thomas, Esq; at the mouth of South river, known by the name of Holt's Delight, hereby forewarns all persons whatever from hunting with dog or gun within the enclosures of the said plantation, or from halting the team at any of the fishing landings, as he is determined to take legal steps to make those pay for it who shall be found trespassing upon him in either way.

RALPH FORSTER.

Annapolis, January 1, 1787.

BRILLIANT,

IS now in fine order, and for sale, his pedigree the best, his merits on the turf with that of his stock (as far as they have been tried) equal to any horse in the state of Maryland.

If Brilliant is not sold by the 15th of February next, he will cover mares the ensuing season in Queen Anne's county, at three guineas the mare, where there will be good pasturage at the usual price; those gentlemen who favour Brilliant with their mares from the western shore shall not be chargeable with the expence of crossing and recrossing the bay, and may be assured that every care and attention to and from the other shore shall be paid to those addressed to the subscriber, in Annapolis. Apply for terms of sale to Robert Wright, Esq; of Chelter-town, Kent county, or the subscriber.

JAMES RINGGOLD.

February 13, 1787.

To be sold by the subscriber, at his plantation, near South river church, for cash, crop tobacco of this year's inspection, or good bills of exchange, either upon London, Glasgow, or Edinburgh.

A NUMBER of negroes, consisting of men, women, and children.

3X

WILLIAM STEUART.